

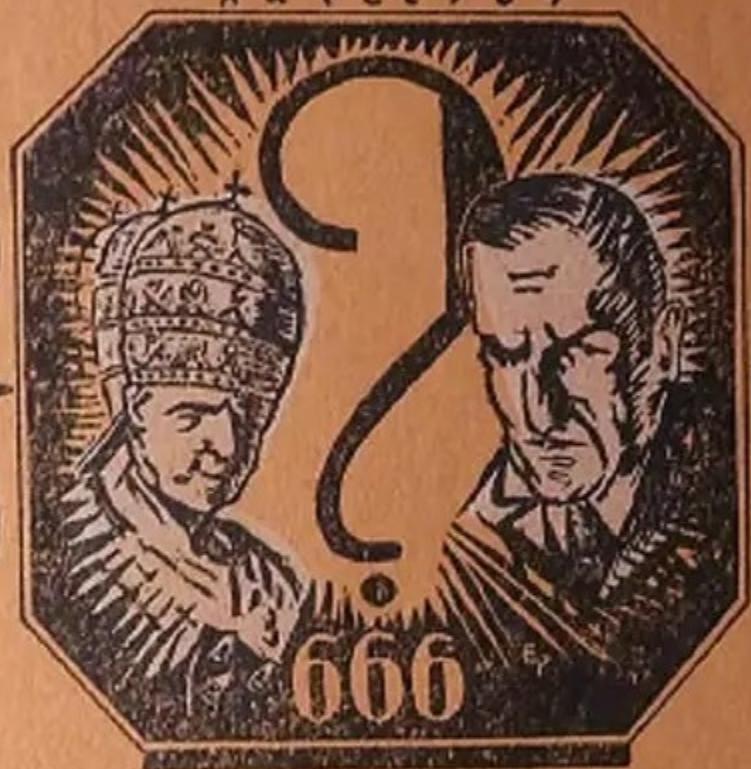
POPULAR PROTESTANT PROPHETIC STUDIES

LATEINOS

λατεῖνος

"Act
thou
be
that
should
come?"

or
look
we
for
an-
other?"



THE PRESENT ANTICHRIST

BY REV. FRED. J. PETERS



**THE ANTICHRIST—VICARIUS FILII DEI
The only man that wears a triple crown.
POPULAR PROTESTANT PROPHETIC STUDIES**

The Present Antichrist

By Rev. Fred J. Peters

By Rev. Fred J. Peters Author of "The Problem of Antichrist" Companion book to this
Eighth Edition, March, 1956 Revised and Enlarged

FOREWORD

One of the crying needs of today is to popularize the prophetic teaching of our Great Reformers. The growth of Roman Catholicism in Protestant lands by immigration, and its bid for popular leadership, and the audacious canvass of Protestants all over our land by the priests, for money to build their churches and schools and sustain their propaganda, causes us to ask why Protestants have lost their

Protest. For Rome is **semper idem** (a Latin phrase that means “always the same”) and has never changed. We are convinced that the reason is—the loss of the knowledge of the Papacy in Prophecy, which was the mighty tonic that nerved the Reformers to fight and die. No man can dally with Rome who sees her as God sees her.

We herewith make an attempt to supply this lack to the general public, in as reduced a form as the subject will allow, trusting and praying that God will use it to awaken many dormant Christians to the peril of Antichrist’s domination.

What we have given in this tract is but a brief introduction to a vast subject, and it is our earnest hope that it will be the means of so awakening interest in the readers, that they will be led to search the larger standard works written upon it.

If that be the result, we shall count it the highest kind of success.

THE PRESENT ANTICHRIST

How John Knew Christ

“Art thou he that should come or look we for another?” —Luke 7:19-22.

John the Baptist was in prison and things did not look very sunny for him just then, and doubts formed in his mind as to whether he had been deceived in the Messiah. To settle these doubts and clear his spiritual atmosphere, he resolved to send a direct request to Jesus Himself. Two of his disciples are called and sent with the question, “Art Thou He that should come or look we for another?” His soul needs a clear “Yes” or “No” to this appeal. He must have it, nothing else will suffice.

The men come to Jesus and deliver the message, thereby requesting the Lord to tell them plainly whether He be the Messiah or not.

How did the Master answer this anguished appeal? Did He give a simple, direct, unequivocal affirmative or negative, to ease the tension of the breaking heart of the faithful John in prison? It would have been easy for the Lord to have done this. We are prone to think He ought to have done this, but He did not.

What did He do?

How did He answer the eager prophet’s request? Listen,—

“In that same hour He cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits, and unto many that were blind He gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.”

What does all this mean?

Is this an answer to the Baptist’s question?

It apparently is not, and yet it is.

Yes, and it is the greatest and best answer Christ could give to this man. Christ adapts His words to the minds of His hearers. To the uneducated woman of Samaria He says, “I that speak unto thee am He.”

To the great prophet, steeped in the prophetic Word of God, he works miracles which fulfil the prophetic scriptures concerning the Messiah, (See Is. 35:3-5; 61-1, etc.) John knowing these prophecies and looking eagerly for their fulfillment, would at once recognize such as credentials of supreme authority, and would be more convinced by them than by any number of bold claims of a man without them.

There is nothing more re-assuring to genuine faith than the perception of the fulfilment of “the more sure word of prophecy,” for which one has been watching through the clouds and mists of many a long weary year.

John was re-assured and satisfied, and joyfully reconciled to his dark, mysterious martyrdom. And millions more have, since that time, under the influence of the same prophetic word, gone gladly to the rack and flame, for love of that same Christ.

Fulfilled prophecy had conclusively proven to John that, this was indeed the Christ foretold of old. He was the very Messiah, the long expected Coming One.

It was therefore useless to look for another.

A Future Antichrist Taught by Some

The foregoing applies with overwhelming force to the prophecies concerning Antichrist. We hear a great deal today about the Antichrist who is still to come. Many of our leading Bible teachers are telling us that he is soon coming, and that when he is come he will do terrible things. He is to be a superman, a special offspring or incarnation of Satan: while some go as far as to say that he will be Antiochus Epiphanes literally risen from the dead. We have in one book, widely sold, read of the doings of this man in detail, all carefully mapped-out like a railroad timetable. And we confess that, as set forth therein, the record is as gruesome and blood curdling as words can possibly make it.

Among the teachers who look for this future Antichrist, we count many, if not most of our dearest friends in the cause of Christ. We have been working shoulder to shoulder with them for a quarter of a century. We have read their books; have been with them in conventions; have discussed with them the different phases of this burning subject; and have earnestly endeavored to see eye to eye with them, and have tried honestly to adopt their view of prophecy on this point; all this because they are brethren beloved for their work's sake.

But we confess again that, the more we have studied "the sure word of prophecy" and compared it with their findings, the more we are compelled to differ from them on this one point. We are in full agreement with them on all fundamental points, and as to the personal, premillennial coming of our Blessed Lord. But concerning Antichrist we differ. We are very sorry to have to say this, but fidelity to God's Word and its fulfillment demands it.

The Faith of the Reformers

While these aforementioned brethren, beloved in the Lord, are looking for a still future Antichrist; there are others, the descendants of a long line of mighty Christian worthies and warriors, who see the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Antichrist, in the Papacy. That is to say, the dynasty of Popes during the past twelve or fourteen centuries, is the full and complete fulfillment of those prophecies that foretell the coming of the Man of Sin, the Antichrist.

Let not the dear reader who reads this for the first time be startled. This is no new teaching. This is the faith of the great Reformers who were Spirit-taught and Spirit-filled men; whose work has stood the test of time and remains to this day, and is still a blessing to us, in fact the foundation of all evangelical religion now existing.

Behold a few of the paves of the men of God who have held this Spirit-given interpretation of prophecy,—The Waldenses (AD 1180), Wycliffe, John Huss, Jerome of Prague, Luther, Calvin, Tyndale, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Sir Isaac Newton, Bunyan. And coming to more modern times,

Gaussin, Elliott, Finney, Moody, A. J. Gordon, Hudson Taylor, Spurgeon, Grattan Guinness, F. B. Meyer, Campbell Morgan, A. C. Dixon, etc.

It was this belief, viz.: that the Pope was the very Antichrist spoken of in the Word of God, which made the Reformers brave as lions and gave them courage to face the Inquisition with its dungeons, rack and flame, singing as they went. We have asked ourselves many times during the past twenty-five years,—Were these noble armies of martyrs buoyed up by a false faith? Was it an imaginary interpretation that caused them to “love not their lives unto the death?” Impossible. Did God sustain them on lies? To state the proposition is to annihilate it at one breath. Just as easy to sustain life on a painted loaf. We are compelled to believe that the Reformers’ interpretation of prophecy was right. It was Spirit-given and therefore God’s Truth.

The Truth Perverted

But earnest enquirers will ask,—“How came it about that this teaching did not continue in the whole of the Protestant Church, which owed its very life to it? And where did the other teaching come from?”

The teaching that the Papacy was Antichrist was so self-evident, so simple, so clear and so incriminating that, it threatened to shake the whole fabric of Popedom to pieces.

This had to be offset somehow.

The Jesuits were appointed to combat this teaching.

Two of their number, Ribera and Alcasar, invented systems of interpretation intended to shield the Papacy and sidetrack Protestantism. In the year AD 1585 Ribera founded the Futurist system of interpretation of prophecy, and sent it forth on its work of chloroforming the Protestants. His subtle teaching was something as follows:—“Why, you Protestants are all off the track. You imagine the Pope is the Antichrist. You are all wrong, for these (stated) reasons. The real Antichrist is still future and will come in the last few years of the world’s history.” And many of our leading Bible teachers have adopted this error and are earnestly teaching it to others.

Alcasar, another Jesuit, invented the Praeterist system of interpretation in AD 1603, which declares there is no Antichrist to come. In fact there is no Second Coming of Christ, He came in the year AD 70 at the fall of Jerusalem, and Antichrist must have come before Him. This system is being serenely followed by our postmillennial brethren in great numbers of Protestant pulpits today.

Both the Praeterists and the Futurists have fallen into the cunningly laid Jesuit trap. The Jesuits have succeeded in splitting the Protestant Church into three camps, The Praeterist Futurist, and the Historical which still holds with the Reformers, and keeps the Truth alive and the witness against the real Antichrist. And the sad thing about it all is that these divisions are shooting at each other. The Futurists belabour the Praeterists because they are not biblical, and the Praeterists deride the Futurists for believing such trash. But the fact is that, the Futurist brethren who attack the post-millennial brethren with such avidity, are as much wrong as they on this point.

Rome has no kick against the teaching of a future Antichrist.

Rome does not persecute those who hold it and teach it.

Why?

Because it is her child.

Because it has robbed Protestantism of its real witness against her.

Brethren, we are fallen into the Jesuit trap.

How and When the Error was Absorbed

This Jesuit teaching did not pass into the Protestant Church for a long while. It did not deceive the Reformers or their immediate followers. It had no chance while they were on the scene. Not until the year AD 1826 was it effective. Then the bait was swallowed by the Rev. S. R. Maitland, D.D., librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who endeavored to introduce it into Great Britain by publishing it.

Four years later, Mr. J. N. Darby, founder of the Plymouth Brethren, looking about him for some novelty in the interpretation of the Apocalypse, found this adopted it, and incorporated it into his works. This is in line with the well known character of the Plymouth Brethren, who criticize the churches and aim to be different from them in teaching and work. This denomination has persistently propagated the teaching of a future Antichrist ever since their origin at the time of Darby.

Now, disguise it how they will, those modern teachers who are proclaiming a still future Antichrist, are following the Plymouth Brethren. Some do not care to have it mentioned to them, while others frankly admit it and read the works of Darby and of others of that sect. This is by no means an impeachment of the Plymouth Brethren, for we are glad to admit that most of their teachings are admirable. But in this one matter they have grievously erred.

The source of a stream indicates its nature. The Jesuits originated in a fierce hatred of Protestantism, and only exist now to overthrow it by fair means or foul. And the fact that the futurist interpretation originated with them, for ever determines its traitorous character, and it should be shunned and combated by all Protestants who are indeed children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

The True Interpretation

We are by no means attempting an exhaustive treatise in this little volume. Other far more competent witnesses have done this. We aim to present a few of the evidences in small compass, in a simple, popular way, that demonstrate that the Pope and the Papal Church are the true fulfilment of all that is written concerning Antichrist and his connections. We desire to arouse our sleeping brethren in all the different Protestant Churches, and bring this mighty God-given interpretation of prophecy within the reach of a public which may not have time to peruse the large volumes written on it. It is heart rending to see the lethargy that has fallen on the Churches in this matter as a result of Jesuit intrigue, so that the very prophecies that were given to light the Church through this dark time have absolute no light for her. Therefore we believe there is a present need for such a little book as this, and we send it forth in God's name. We make no claim to any great originality in this tract but own our indebtedness to the following,—Albert Close, of England; Dr. A. J. Gordon, late of Boston, Mass., and Dr. H. Grattan Guinness, of England, the latter being in our humble estimation the greatest prophetic gift God has

given to the modern Church. And we record with gratitude that it was our great privilege to have been a student in his college in London, and to have sat at his feet.

We will now open the prophetic word with a view to answering the question which is constantly before us,—“Art thou, O Papal Antichrist, he that should come, or look we for another?”

It is our object to select from the prophetic Scriptures a few of those passages which undoubtedly refer to the Antichrist, and are held to refer to him by all well balanced expositors, though he appears under various names, such as —“The Little Horn,” “The Man of Sin,” “The Beast,” etc.

THE EVIDENCE EXAMINED

Lying Wonders

“Him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.’—2 Thess. 2:9.

The Antichrist evidently was to be characterized by the deepest kind of satanic working, with much deception and apparent miracles. They were to be lying wonders not real wonders. Keep this fact well in mind as you read the following elucidation of the prophecy from actual happenings past and present. These lying wonders or false miracles would be believed by the credulous, those who were willing to be deluded by them, and to them they would seem to be wonderful, and yet they would be lies, deceptions. We now ask, has such a thing as this existed during the past 1800 years since the Apocalypse was written? Is there anything like this existing today? Is it possible that such a thing could endure the searching light of the twentieth century? Yes, it is only too true that there exists today, and has existed for over twelve centuries, a system literally loaded with these lying wonders; and sad to relate millions of people still believe in them. The following is a very brief suggestion of what deceptions have been and are found in the Church ruled by the Roman Hierarchy.

“In the church of All Saints at Wittemburg there was shown a fragment of Noah’s Ark, some soot from the furnace of the Three Children, a piece of wood from the cradle of Jesus Christ, some hair from the beard of St. Christopher, and nineteen thousand other relics. At Schaffhausen was exhibited the breath of St. Joseph which Nicodemus received in his glove. In Wurtemberg you might meet a seller of indulgences, his head adorned with a large feather plucked from the wing of the Angel Michael.”

We have ourselves seen a renowned “Lord of the Earthquakes,” a black image of Christ, in Cuzco, Peru, which is reputed to have put an end to a terrible earthquake, and ever since has been venerated and worshipped by multitudes in that region. In Callao they have a “Lord of the Sea.” In Lima there is a weeping Virgin, whose head moves and whose eyes shed copious tears on a certain set day in the year. In many churches we have met with images covered with gold and silver medals which have been given by credulous persons who are reputed to have been healed by praying to those images.

In Italy there is a “Holy House of Loreto,” proclaimed by the priests to be the house in which Mary was born and grew up, and where the Angel Gabriel spoke to her. The Virgin herself announced to the Bishop of Modrino (so the priests teach) that this house was translated, through the air, from Nazareth in Palestine to Tersatto in Fiume, and then to Loreto in Italy; a journey of over 1500 miles. This story is believed by all faithful Catholics, and is a source of enormous revenue for the Pope, and the poor deluded pilgrims “have worn a furrow all around it, by making the circuit of it on their knees” if we are to believe the Catholic Herald of Aug. 30, 1895.

In the church of St. Prassede, Italy, they have a regular museum of relics, of which the following are but a fraction. They profess to have a tooth of St. Peter and another of St. Paul. They have the chemise (undergarment) of the Virgin and the girdle of the Lord Jesus. They do not blush to declare that they have the rod of Moses, and the heads of St. Peter and St. Paul. The towel with which Christ wiped the feet of the disciples happens to be in their possession. And strange to say, they claim to possess the swaddling clothes of the Lord Jesus and three thorns from the crown of thorns. They claim to have the

stone which killed Stephen and four pieces of the true cross. And all these objects are supposed to have miraculous powers. And who has not heard of the miracles of Treves and Lourdes and a hundred other places.

Who can fail to see in these deceits the complete fulfilment of the prophecy of the “Lying wonders” that Antichrist should invent? The fulfilment is so exact and minute that no person who really knows these depths of Satan by experience would think of looking for any other. And we believe it is a fact that, most missionaries who work in Catholic lands sooner or later come to hold this view of prophecy.

The Apostasy

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for the day of Christ shall not come except, there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed.”—2 Thess. 2:2, 3.

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians clearly shows that Antichrist was to be head of an apostasy, a falling away. This is also referred to in I Tim. 4:1-3. Paul is not concerned about apostasies in pagan religion, but he does frequently warn as to the coming of declensions in the Church. He says to the Ephesian elders, “I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” Acts 20:29, 30. In like manner the falling away, mentioned in 2 Thess. 2, is a falling away in the Christian Church, and the revelation of the man of sin is also in the church. It was to be some abnormal development in the Church that would be altogether foreign to the teachings of the founder of it. It was not to be an openly atheistical system as some would have it. Nor was Antichrist to be an open unbeliever, but a Vice-Christ which is the meaning of the word in I John 2:18. The most approved meaning of the Greek prefix anti, (ἀντί) is “over against, instead of, in place of.” Thus Antichrist is a person who opposes Christ by putting himself in the place of Christ, usurping the authority and power of Christ.

The following quotation, from an article by the Rev. A. H. T. Clarke, M.A., of Devizes, England, which appeared in “The New Menace” of Sept. 1, 1923, reveals the true sense and use of the word “antichrist” in the original:—

“When the term ‘Antichrist’ is applied by Protestant writers and speakers to the papal system, occasionally some Protestant objects, because the word sounds harsh, and because it does not seem applicable to a church professedly Christian. ‘Antichrist’ however, must not be understood as being against Christ, but rather as one who takes the place of Christ. Here is a paragraph from an ancient document that makes the matter very clear:—

“In the year 5, when Justin the King, that old man of whom we related above, that he came from the country of Illyricum, he made his sister’s son, who was general, anti-Caesar; and Justinian became anti-Caesar on the fifth day of the week in the last week of the fast. And, after he had governed for three months his uncle died, at the end of July, and he became emperor.’ Chronicles of Zachariah, of Mytilene, written in the 6th century, in the days of Justinian, chapter 1, paragraph 1 (Bury’s Byzantine Texts.)

“Anti-Caesar does not therefore mean one against Caesar, it means one in the place of Caesar—his deputy, his representative, his vicegerent. Latin usage would have called Justinian vice-Caesar. In

English we have vice-president, vice-chairman, etc., which in Greek usage would be expressed as anti-president, anti-chairman meaning one ruling in the place of another.”

Dr. Hale, an old English writer, says this of the papacy:

“The vicegerent of Jesus Christ, which by a singular coincidence, meant the same as the obnoxious ‘Antichristus,’ originally signifying a pro-Christ, or deputy-Christ, or false Christ, who assumed his authority and acted in his stead.’ This is the kind of Antichrist referred to by John in his epistle. And who can deny that this is what the Papacy lays claim to today? To deny this would be to reveal a woeful ignorance of facts and of simple church history.

The Roman Church was a true Church of Christ at the beginning, but as the centuries passed it gradually forsook the truth, or buried it under a mass of errors. It was not content to be **one** of the Churches of Christ, it must be the *only* Church, and dominate all the rest. This was the end it sought. For this it worked and planned and schemed until it was attained, and this process was the very falling away which the apostle Paul foretells in the text at the head of this section. In this awful manner the apostasy had its revelation and the Anti-christ had his epiphany, and today is found masquerading under the title of “The True and Only Church Of Christ.” Hundreds of millions blindly follow its teachings and submit to its claims. Thousands of millions have gone into eternity trusting its blind leaders, only to awaken to the terrible truth of Christ’s words, “If the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch.”

Brother teacher of prophecy, consider we beseech you, the vast multitudes that have gone into eternity trusting in the sacrament of Rome instead of the “Precious Blood of Christ.” Trusting in the Pope instead of Christ. Trusting in Mary as the Queen of heaven and mother of God. Think of this traffic in “the souls of men,” Rev. 18:18, extending over a millennium and a half, and ask yourself honestly, “Can there be any Antichrist in three and a half years that can possibly do a fraction of the harm that this one has caused?”

“Art thou he that should come or look we for another?”

Pope of Rome, art thou the Vice-Christ, Antichrist, Man of Sin, that should come?

History answers loudly, yes!

Thine own claims say, yes!

The souls under the altar clamoring for vengeance say, yes!

Fidelity to the Truth of God’s word demands that we say yes! Thou oh! Vicar of Christ at Rome art the very Antichrist, and it is vain to look for another, for no other will appear.

The Son of Perdition

“And that Man of Sin be revealed, The Son of Perdition.”— 2 Thess. 2:3.

This is the startling title that St. Paul gives to this great opposer of the Christ, who is to have a revelation (apocalypse) in this falling away or apostasy, and become the leader thereof.

Who is he? Where shall we get light upon his identity? Who is this Son of Perdition?

There is only one other place in Holy Writ where the name is found, and it will at once occur to Bible students. It is in John 17:12, "Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition." These are Christ's words. Who is the son of perdition to whom He refers? It is Judas. And who was Judas? An apostle, a bishop (Acts 1:20), a companion of Peter, and an equal of Peter in the days of the Lord. But without a doubt the Lord refers to him as fallen in this phrase. It is Judas the traitor that Jesus refers to here.

In like manner St. Paul must use the title; his "Son of Perdition" is a fallen apostle, a fallen bishop. Is this not exactly what we have in the Pope? But if Judas was a son of perdition, then this "Son of Perdition" spoken of by Paul must be a Judas. As this undoubtedly refers to the Pope, The Papacy (or dynasty of Popes) must be a Judas. He is not an open enemy, but as Judas, professing love and friendship for Christ, calling Him Master, yet betraying Him with a kiss.

Those of you readers, who have any knowledge of the lives of the long line of Popes, ask yourselves if this picture of Antichrist does not correspond to him as the print to the negative.

You will recall that, there is scarcely a teaching of Christ's that has not been perverted by the papacy; while the Bible, itself God's Word, has been prohibited and put in the list of immoral books. Pope Pius IX in his encyclical letter of 1850, speaks of Bible study as "poisonous reading." Many a colporteur (book seller), in Catholic lands, has witnessed an priests collect all the Bibles he has sold and burn them in the public square. The writer has been through such an experience. Is this not treason to Christ? Is it not the work of a Judas? "The Son of Perdition?"



Dr. H. Grattan Guinness
England's Greatest Teacher of Prophecy

Furthermore, call to mind the perversion of Baptism into baptismal-regeneration, robing (clothing with a robe) the priest with supernatural powers. Think of the travesty of the Mass in place of the simple love-feast of the Lord's Supper. What a work of a Judas! What about the imposition of purgatory, never mentioned once under any form in God's Word. Call to mind also the institution of auricular confession, salvation by works, worship of saints and relics, etc., etc. Is it not clear as day that, the one who authorizes all this and who calls himself the Vicar of Christ, is a traitor to Christ? A Judas? The Antichrist?

The fulfilment of this sign also, answers the cry of a multitude of hearts today,—“Art thou he that should come, or look we for another?”

It answers in the affirmative, “Yes, thou Oh! Fallen Bishop of Rome art the Antichrist, and it is vain to look for another.”

Antichrist as God

“Who opposeth and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”—2 Thess. 2:4.

It is here that one of the greatest difficulties has arisen in the minds and teaching of some of our dear brethren. They have from this passage, coupled with Dan. 9:27 drawn a picture of a single, superman in the future, who is to make a covenant with the Jews for a week (of seven years). In the midst of the last

week of Daniel (after 3½ years) he is to break the covenant, overthrow the restored Jewish sacrifice, sit in the literal, restored Jewish temple, and be worshipped by the Jews in their restored temple. As we find it impossible to accept this teaching, we propose to enter the study of it somewhat at length, as such vital issues depend upon it.

Now let our brethren honestly look at the above passage with an un-biased mind if they can, not following blindly any system of teaching, however popular, and then carefully consider the following:

THE LAST WEEK OF DANIEL

Exposition by Dr. Grattan Guinness

In the first place let us deal with the popular interpretation of Dan. 9:27, which we are convinced is a grievous error, and is responsible for much of the mischief and confusion of thought. We will appeal to the words of Dr. Grattan Guinness, one of God's ablest prophetic expositors, if not the greatest. In his famous work, "The Approaching End of the Age," he says:

"One of the gravest evils of futurism is the terrible way in which it tampers with this great fundamental prophecy (Dan. 9:27), applying to the future doings of some ideal Antichrist, **its** Divine description of the past deeds of the historic Christ.

"To hear their disquisitions on the subject, one would suppose that 'Antichrist's seven year's covenant with the Jews was as unquestionable an event as God's covenant with Israel on Sinai! Few would surmise how frail the foundation on which this cardinal doctrine of Futurism rests. Few would suppose that the notion has really **no solid ground at all in Scripture**, but is derived from an erroneous interpretation of one single clause of one single text. The **only** basis for the idea is the expression in the 27th verse of the 9th chapter of Daniel. The sentence occurs in the midst of Daniel's celebrated prophecy of the 70 weeks, a prophecy that does not even allude to Antichrist, but is exclusively occupied with the first advent of Christ, His rejection and death, and the Roman destruction of Jerusalem which was the result.

"Interpreted in the light of history, as a fulfilled prophecy, this remarkable chronological prediction affords conclusive evidence of the Messiahship of Jesus, of the inspiration of Scripture, and the divine origin of the Christian faith.

"What are the words of this sacred and marvellous prediction given between five and six hundred years before Christ?

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and three score and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall even in troublous times. And after three score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of a prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.'

“And He (Messiah) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (Or during the one or last week): and in the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations He shall make it (i.e., the city) desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate or desolator.’ Dan 9:24-27.

“This prophecy was given just as the 70 years’ captivity in Babylon was drawing to a close. It announces the duration of the restored national existence of Israel up to the great epoch of all history, the advent of Messiah the Prince. It was foretold that within 490 years from the date of the decree to restore and to build Jerusalem, the long foreshadowed, long predicted supreme atonement for sin was to be accomplished by the advent of Messiah the Prince, reconciliation for iniquity effected, and everlasting righteousness brought in; that vision and prophecy should be sealed up, and the most Holy anointed.

“This period was then subdivided into three parts: 7 weeks, 62 weeks, and 1 week; i.e., 49 years, 434 years, and 7 years. The rebuilding of the city, and the re-establishment of the Jewish polity would occur in the first forty-nine years or ‘seven weeks.’ Four hundred and thirty-four years more would elapse, and then Messiah the Prince would appear. After that, at some time not exactly specified, but within the limits of the seventieth week or last seven years of the period, Messiah would be cut off; but not for Himself. It is further foretold that Jerusalem and its temple would subsequently, and as a consequence, be destroyed, and that a flood of foreign invasion would overflow the land. But though thus cut off, Messiah would confirm the covenant with many (not the whole nation) during the course of the ‘one week’; in the midst of it He would ‘cause sacrifice and oblation to cease.’ Jerusalem should then be made desolate, until a certain pre-determined doom should fall upon the power that should desolate it; a fact which our Lord afterwards foretold in the words, ‘Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.’

“All this was accomplished with wonderful exactness. The edict to restore and build the city was issued by Artaxerxes, and Ezra and Nehemiah were the two great restorers of the Jewish people, polity and religion. Their joint administration occupied about ‘seven weeks’ or forty-nine years; the wall and the street were rebuilt in troublous times. After a lapse of 434 years more, Messiah the Prince did appear, saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;’ i.e., the time indicated by this very prophecy. He came unto His own, but alas! His own received Him not! He was cut off; but not for Himself! Shortly after the Roman Soldiery—‘the people of a prince that shall come’—(Titus) did destroy the city and the sanctuary; the end of Jewish independence came with a flood of foreign invasion, and predetermined desolation fell on land and people. But though the nation was thus judged, Messiah did ‘confirm the covenant’ with many.

“What covenant? and how did He confirm it? ‘This is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you,’ said He to his disciples the night before His passion (Luke 22:20); or as Matthew and Mark give the words: “This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” ‘He shall confirm the covenant with many,’ said the angel to Daniel. ‘My blood of the new covenant shed for many,’ said Christ. Is not His blood declared to be ‘the blood of the everlasting covenant’ And is not He Himself repeatedly styled ‘the Mediator of the new covenant’? Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24. And can any Bible student doubt what is the event predicted, when in immediate connection with the

coming and cutting off of Messiah, it is added, ‘He shall confirm the covenant with many’? (See also Heb. 8).

“What excuse is there for introducing into this most solemn and touching prophecy of the life and death and work of CHRIST, the political action of some future Antichrist? It is needless, groundless, unpardonable discord! Antichrist making a league with the Jews! What? in a prophecy which speaks of the accomplishment of atonement, of the making an end of sin, of the effecting of reconciliation, of the bringing in of everlasting righteousness!

“What has Antichrist to do here?

“Oh! he is the ‘prince that shall come’ of v. 26, it is answered.

“Impossible! That prince was the prince of the people who did the deed here predicted, destroyed the temple and city of Jerusalem in consequence of the Jewish rejection of Messiah. That **must** be Titus, for it was his soldiery that did this. ‘Then where is Antichrist in this prophecy? It is replied that even granting the earlier reference to be to Titus, still it is Antichrist who in the midst of the week causes the sacrifice and oblation to cease. No! the Actor is one and the same in all the clauses of v. 27—Messiah Himself. Who else put an end to the sacrifices offered by the law continually, and caused them to cease by the offering of one sacrifice for sins for ever?

“What was it that **did** actually as a matter of historic fact, cause the Jewish sacrifice and oblation to cease? ‘**The offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**,’ that offering which took place ‘in the midst of the week’—that is, in the course of the seventieth of Daniel’s predicted weeks, the one week which stands alone at the close,—the week which comprised the earthly ministry and the atoning death of the Son of God, the giving of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, and the formation of the Christian Church.

“Christ and His work is the one great theme of this prophecy. The judgement that should overtake the Jews for **rejecting Him**, and Titus and the Romans by whom these judgements were to be inflicted, are mentioned, **but there is no allusion to Antichrist.**

“How could there be? **490 years includes chronologically the events foretold here**, and Antichrist is not yet come according to futurist views! How then could he figure in a prediction which expired 1800 years ago? Oh, it is said, ‘The angel said 490 years but he meant plus 1800 or 2000 years; there is a chronological gap of this length between the sixty-ninth and the seventieth weeks. The last week has not begun yet. When it does begin, Antichrist will appear and make his covenant with the Jews.

“To state such a theory ought to suffice for its refutation. Language has lost all meaning if a definite period of 490 years, interposed between two great historical events, may be extended by two thousand years. Prophetic revelations of such a character would be worse than none; for they would be misleading and deceptive.

“Not thus was the forty years wandering in the wilderness lengthened! Not thus was the Babylonian captivity measured! If God condescends to give chronological predictions at all, they will be truthful, accurate, divinely exact. The events mentioned as occurring in the midst of the last week, occurred within 490 years from the Edict of Artaxerxes. They are long, long past. The prophecy is a fulfilled

prophecy. The judgements on the Christ-rejecting nation continue, it is true, and will continue till the end of this age; ‘even until the consummation, and that determined be poured upon the desolator.’ But the object of the prophecy was not to announce these judgements, but to measure the interval to Messiah the Prince. It was given to intimate beforehand the period of the greatest events of all history, the greatest events of time, not to say the greatest events of eternity, the atoning death of the Son of God, and the establishment of the new covenant.

“The great anti-christian power, symbolized as ‘the little horn’ and called the ‘man of sin,’ and the eighth head of the beast, being the last form of Gentile power, and belonging to these ‘times of the Gentiles,’ has little to do with the literal Israel, or the literal Jerusalem, or the literal Temple.

‘He (Antichrist) co-exists not with a recognized Jewish nation, but with the rejection and dispersion of the Jews, and with a recognized professing Christian Church. His sphere is not Palestine, but Christendom; his throne is not Jerusalem, but Rome; his victims are not Jews, but Christians; his end and doom are brought about by that event which marks the commencement of the restoration of Israel to God’s favor —the second advent of Christ; when Israel shall look on Him whom they pierced, and mourn because of Him, and when the times of the Gentiles shall be ended.”—End of the Age, pp. 711-717.

We quote this passage so extensively because it is so unanswerable. In our opinion it is the last word on that passage. We believe it ought to be continually at work among the rank and file of our people, and so we herewith launch it forth.

There is then no last week of Daniel in the future, and therefore all the teaching that hangs around it as future, falls to the ground. It is well to face the issue at once. All prophetic teaching based on the theory that the last week of Daniel is still future, is based on a false premise. It is therefore unscriptural. Why go on any longer building up a system of teaching that will certainly never be fulfilled? We appeal to all our dear brethren who are innocently teaching it, to prayerfully reconsider the whole subject.

Antichrist is here. He has been on the stage his allotted time and has fulfilled his predestined awful career. The next event is the coming of the King to destroy him whom He has been consuming with the Spirit of His mouth since the glorious Reformation.

We are now free to consider the true Protestant interpretation of the Scripture that heads this section.

The Temple of God

The phrase “The Temple of God” examined in the original Greek repudiates the idea of a Jewish Temple. It is “*Ho Naos tou Theou*” (**ò ναὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ**), while the word used for the Temple is “*Hieron*” (**ἱερόν**). Dr. A. J. Gordon writing of this says, “There is no undisputed instance in the New Testament where this word ‘Naos’ is applied to the Jewish Temple.

In the lexicons the prime meaning given for “Naos” is “a dwelling.” Now a careful study and comparison of the following Scriptures conclusively demonstrates that this temple or dwelling is the Church,—Eph. 2:20-22; 2 Thess. 2:4; 1 Cor. 3:16,17; 2 Cor. 6:16. Seeing that all these passages were written by the apostle Paul, it would be inconsistent with the Pauline spirit and method to interpret three passages as applying to the Church, as all expositors do, and one passage as applying to some

future Jewish Temple as futurists do. The Word “Naos” is the word Paul uses in all these passages. Indeed so evident is this to all readers of the original that we feel compelled to lay these passages side by side with the Greek word inserted in such a way that even the simplest Bible student will see and understand. This we now proceed to do:

I Cor. 3:16, 17

II Thess. 2:3, 4.

“Know ye not that ye are the NAOS (TEMPLE) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” “That man of sin (shall) be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the NAOS (TEMPLE OF GOD,) showing himself that he is God.”

“If any man defile the NAOS (TEMPLE) of God, he shall God destroy: for the NAOS (TEMPLE OF GOD,) showing himself that he is God.”

“If any man defile the NAOS (TEMPLE) of God, is holy, which NAOS (TEMPLE) ye are.”

A simple reading of these passages placed thus in parallelism reveals several startling facts:

1. That, Paul distinctly tells us that this Naos or temple is the Church, “ye are the Naos or temple.” “Which Naos (temple) ye are.”
2. That, it was possible for this Naos or temple to be defiled, and if defiled, one would be destroyed. 1 Cor. 17.
3. That, the man of sin or Antichrist, was to appear in this Naos or temple, exalt himself in it above all that is called God, and be worshipped therein; that is, in the professing Church.

If we examine the other Scripture quoted above, the conviction will be further deepened that, this Temple (NAOS) is the very church of God, and it is impossible to apply it to anything else. In 2 Cor. 6:16 we read, “And what agreement hath the NAOS (TEMPLE) OF GOD with idols? for ye are the NAOS (TEMPLE) OF GOD.”

In Eph. 2:19-21 Paul writes, “Ye are... the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building... growtheth unto an holy NAOS (TEMPLE) in the Lord.”

There is no doubt whatsoever as to the application of this. It tells us unequivocally that the Church of Christ is the Temple, Naos, Dwelling of God. This is Paul’s use of the word. It can in no way or sense be applied to the Jewish Temple, for all these Epistles of Paul are written to ultra-gentile Churches, who were taught by Paul to regard the Church as the Temple of God.

Seeing then that this is a divinely given interpretation which none can deny, upon whose authority is this Naos, which is God’s dwelling, changed into a Jewish Temple? Such treatment of God’s Word is “handling the Word of God deceitfully.” We beg our readers to study these passages carefully for the more he does so, the more he will be convinced that this is the truth of God according to Scripture. He will also be convinced that some enemy has put leaven into the pure meal of sound doctrine upon which God’s children are to be fed. And because this poison has been working in the Church for so long, things are not going well with her. It is because this God-given interpretation, which buoyed up

the reformers and made them like lions against Antichrist, has been abandoned, that today Rome lifts her shameless head with such audacity in this “Land of the Pilgrims’ pride.” We need to sound the alarm indeed. But we need above everything to come back to the true Protestant interpretation of the prophecies, which were given for our help and warning upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

This study has now made positively sure that Antichrist will never sit in a Jewish Temple. Seeing that this is so, we shall have to revise a great deal of that which we have spoken and written. And the sooner that this is done the better for the true church of Christ. Let us put honest hands to this work, dear brothers, and scrap some of the theories and teachings that have brought to pass the present state of things. Back to the teachings of the Reformers on this subject as on others.

Not a Private Interpretation

For fifteen hundred years this interpretation has been developing. All the Reformers held it. It is not possible in this little work to quote extensively, for that would defeat the object we have in view. But to show how long this has been developing in the Church we quote from well known Christian writers of the fourth and fifth centuries.

Athanasius taught that Antichrist would be a person making a Christian profession, assuming Christ’s place and character and saying “I am Christ.” Hilary, Bishop of Poictiers asked, “Is it a doubtful thing that Antichrist will sit in Christian Churches?” Cyril of Jerusalem says, “Antichrist will sit in the temple of God; not that which is in Jerusalem, but in the Churches everywhere.” Jerome interpreting the 2 Thess. 2 declares that “The Man of Sin is to sit in the temple; that is in the Church.”

And from that time till the present the greatest saints and martyrs and reformers have held the same views. They held them because they saw them in God’s Word as they were anointed with Christ’s eye-salve, and were not looking at God’s Word through a perverted interpretation foisted on the Church by cunning Jesuits in-breathed by Satan.

We believe we have made the foregoing clear, the sum of which is,—The Apostle Paul declares that a Man of Sin, an Antichrist, was to arise in the apostate Church who would,—

1. Oppose God by exalting himself above that which is called God, etc.
2. Sit in the temple of God (Church) showing himself that he is God.

Our inquiry now is, has anything like this ever taken place in the professing Church of Christ? We believe it has been more than fulfilled in the Papacy during the past thirteen centuries. And as this is stoutly denied by some uninformed Protestants, we want to be very careful in our presentation of the evidence.

Antichrist as God. The Fulfillment

He was to “exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped.” “Sit in the temple (Naos, church) of God, showing himself as God.”

Notice carefully the wording, “exalt himself above that is **called** God.” What is there in the Roman Church that is **called** God or worshipped? We know of only one thing so called, and that is the “Host.”

There are multitudinous idols in that church, but only one thing called God, and that is the piece of bread or wafer used in the Mass, which is truly worshipped by all faithful Catholics.

The writer was invited with others by a certain earnest Catholic woman to witness a procession of the Corpus Christi from her house which faced a great cathedral. After witnessing a great number of enormous images come forth, she suddenly cried out: "Oh! there comes the Most Holy One (El Santissimo)," and immediately fell down on her knees and crossing herself began to pray it. I asked her which was the Most Holy One, and she pointed to a canopy borne by four priests, under which was the bishop carrying the host. The thousands of people who were in the large square had at the same time fallen on their knees praying. This prevails everywhere in Catholic lands where Rome still dominates. In this land (U.S.A.) such things are enacted inside the churches. Thus there is no doubt whatsoever that Catholics worship the host. It is their God, on earth.

Now for the fulfillment of this prophecy.

At the time of the coronation of a new Pope, the host is consecrated and placed on the high altar in St. Peter's at Rome. It is now God. Above the high altar there is a throne built into the architecture. When the mass is over the Pope invested with his scarlet robes, and the host is upon the altar, the following takes place:

"The Pope rises, and wearing his mitre, is lifted by the cardinals, and is placed by them **upon the altar to sit there**. One of the bishops kneels and begins the Te Deum (we praise thee Oh! God). In the meantime the cardinals kiss the feet of the Pope, etc." This ceremony is called by Roman Catholic writers "the Adoration," it has been observed for many centuries. For Pius IX a medal was struck to celebrate the occasion, and on it is the inscription,— "Quem creant adorant," "whom they create (viz., the Pope) they adore." Such language is blasphemous in the extreme.



This Famous Chair of St. Peter, Rome, Above the High Altar, where Antichrist has sat for over 1000 years. “Above That Called God.”

During the coronation of a new Pope there are no less than five distinct adorations, at each of which the canons and clergy of St. Peter's, with their cardinal high-priest leading them, come and kneel before the Pope and kiss his feet. At this time also the Pope is carried up to the throne above the high altar where he sits literally "above that which is called God."

That there be no mistake concerning the fulfillment of this prophecy we will quote words of past Popes. Among volumes written on this, let these words suffice: "I am all in all and above all, so that God Himself, and I, the Vicar of God, have both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do... Wherefore, if those things that I do be said not to be done of man, but of God, **WHAT CAN YOU MAKE ME BUT GOD?** Again, if prelates of the Church be called and counted of Constantine for gods, I then, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be **ABOVE ALL GODS**. Wherefore, no marvel if it be in my power to dispense with all things, **yea, with the precepts of Christ.**" End of Age, p. 191 Words of Pope Nicholas.

If these doings and these words are not the fulfillment of prophecies concerning Antichrist, then we cannot see how they will ever be more definitely fulfilled. Ponder it long and carefully, dear reader, and ask yourself if it does not correspond to the prophecies and completely fulfill it. And this being has been on the stage for thirteen centuries deceiving untold multitudes of souls.

Again we ask, Art thou the Antichrist, art thou he that should come, or look we for another?

Assuredly not, there is no other.

This is he who was to come, there will be no other.

The Papacy exhausts all the prophecies.

This is the Antichrist.

Antichrist a Persecuting Power

"He shall wear out the saints of the Most High."—Dan. 7:25. "He had power to cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."—Rev. 13:15. See also Rev. 17:6; 18:24.

Most Protestants have a vague idea of the persecutions of Rome in past days, with its Inquisitions, autos de fe (public penance of the accused), etc., but not many have adequate knowledge of the depths to which Rome has sunk in her hatred of those who dared to oppose her errors with the authority of God's Word.

When Daniel saw the power of the Antichrist under the symbol of the little horn, he saw that it would "wear out the saints," a statement that cannot be understood on any short time interpretation. The wearing out was to be a process of long duration. It was to occupy nearly all the period of the Church's existence on earth, and these prophecies cover more than a thousand years, and not some little, pigmean (very small, short) epoch that may happen in our days.

It is so hard for us in our conceit to convince ourselves that the Great God is not specially interested in our generation because, forsooth, we happen to be alive.

It is so easy, on the contrary, to fall into the mistake of applying all prophecies to the days in which we live, or the near future, and imagining we are to see the whole fulfillment thereof. We are all such egotists that we carry our egotism into the very Holy of Holies of God's Word.

But the fact is that God was just as much interested in the Church of the fourth, or tenth, or fifteenth centuries as in our time, and He gave prophecies for them. And it is an incontrovertible fact that they were mightily helped and heartened by them.

Now in Dan. 7:8 we read of the little horn (kingdom) which sprang up among the ten horns or kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was divided at or after its fall. This little horn is recognized by all schools of interpreters to be the kingdom of Antichrist. It was to spring up among the ten. It was to be like them yet different, for it had "eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things." It was a power or kingdom with an overseer as indicated by the eyes. Nothing has appeared to fit this but the Papacy, which indeed fits it like the key the lock. Shall we throw away the clue we have because the Jesuits offer us an interpretation they have manufactured to protect the Pope from the condemnation of God's Word?

Now this power was to "wear out the saints of the Most High," Dan. 7:25, and they should be "given into his hands until a time and times and the dividing of time." That is three and a half times, in prophetic hieroglyphic language equals 1260 years. Now this is a long time and the wording demands a long time. Antichrist was to "**wear out** the saints," that necessitates a long drawn out period. No little three and a half ordinary years is this.

Now let us suppose an Antichrist were to come as foretold by our futurist brethren. He is to continue his work against the saints during $3\frac{1}{2}$ literal years. If that man were to do his worst he could not equal the black record of the papacy during the 1260 long years of its awful reign. The futurist Antichrist is a lilliputian, a pygmy, a caricature compared with him who has already come and accomplished such terrible work. Listen to the inspired prediction again and weigh it well:

"He shall **wear out** the saints of the Most High." "Drunken with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus."

These words demand long centuries for their fulfillment. Nothing but long periods of time will justify such language as this. Nothing but a long drawn out age justifies the awful wonder of the apostle John, as he gazed upon and comprehended the figures shown by the angel. He says in Rev. 17:6 "When I saw her I was amazed beyond measure." (20th Century Trans.) Something more awful than the Great War produces this wonder and amazement. And we affirm that the record of the Papacy is far worse. So terrible is it that the mind reels as it contemplates it, and one would fain reject it as an impossibility, or the product of a superheated imagination.

The Awful Fulfillment

The question now is, has this terrible persecuting power come? Has this wearing out of the saints of the Most High, etc., been fulfilled or is it still future? Listen to the record history and judge ye. We quote from "End of Age, by Grattan Guinness, pp. 202-212:

“The massacre of St. Bartholomew’s day (in 1572) is a history of unparalleled atrocity, when according to some writers 100,000 were killed. In Paris alone the blood of 10,000 innocent Protestants deluged the streets, and for a whole week the shouts of “kill, kill,” resounded on every hand. These Protestants perished on account of their faith, in the month of August, 1572. Pope Gregory III, who was privy to the plot, celebrated a Te Deum (Latin for ‘Thee, God, we praise’) on hearing the news, ordered a jubilee and a solemn procession which he himself accompanied, to thank God for this glorious success. He had a medal struck in memory of the happy event, and a picture of the Massacre painted and hung in the Vatican.

“A century after this a worse persecution began in France against the Protestants. A Huguenot historian writes of it: ‘Never did hell in the direst persecution invent or employ means so diabolical and inhuman as the dragoons (mounted infantry) and the monks who head them, have used to destroy us.’

“Pope Clement XI did all in his power to secure their utter extinction. For three years this cruel crusade continued till the Protestants were completely crushed.

“Look at Ireland in 1641, when the Romanist Bishops proclaimed a ‘war of religion’ and incited the people by every means in their power to massacre the Protestants. North, south, east and west, throughout the island, Protestant blood flowed in rivers. Popish children were taught to pluck out the eyes of their Protestant playmates, to hack their little limbs and hunt them to death. Some were forced to murder their own relatives, and then were butchered themselves over the bleeding remains; the last sounds that reached their dying ears being the savage assurance of the priests that these agonies were but the commencement of eternal torment.

“In Armagh 4000 Protestants were drowned: in Cavan the road for twelve-miles together was stained red with the gory track of the wounded fugitives. In Ulster upward of 154,000 Protestants were massacred or expelled from Ireland. O’Neil, the Romish Primate of all Ireland, declared this rebellion to be ‘a pious and lawful war,’ and Pope Urban VIII by a bull, dated May, 1648, granted ‘full and absolute remission of all their sins,’ to those who had taken part in it.”

We will conclude this section with the following quotation from Dr. Guinness which history more than substantiates:

As some Emperors of Rome exhausted the art of pleasure, so have Romanish persecutors exhausted all the arts of pain, so that it will now be difficult to discover or invent a new kind of it, which they have not already practiced upon heretics.

“They have been shot, stabbed, stoned, drowned, beheaded, hanged, drawn, quartered, impaled, burnt or buried alive, roasted on spits, baked in ovens, thrown into furnaces, tumbled over precipices, cast from the tops of towers, sunk in mire, and pits, starved with hunger and cold, hung on tenter hooks, suspended by the hair of the head, by the hands or feet, stuffed and blown up by gunpowder, ripped with swords and sickles, tied to the tails of horses, dragged over streets and sharp flints, broken on the wheel, beaten on anvils with hammers, blown with bellows, bored with hot irons, torn piecemeal by red-hot pincers, slashed with knives, hacked with axes, hewed with chisels, pricked with forks, stuck from head to foot with pins; choked with water, lime, rags, urine, excrement, or mangled pieces of their

own bodies crammed down their throats, shut up in caves and dungeons, tied to stakes, nailed to trees, tormented with lighted matches, scalding oil, burning pitch, melted lead, etc.

“They have been flayed alive, had their flesh scalped and torn from their bones; they have been trampled and danced upon till their bowels have been forced out; their entrails have been tied to trees and pulled forth by degrees; their heads twisted with cords till the blood or even the eyes started out; strings have been drawn through their noses and they led about like swine and butchered like sheep.

“To dig out eyes, tear off nails, cut off ears, lips, tongues, arms, breasts, etc., has been but ordinary sport with Rome’s converters and holy butchers. Persons have been compelled to lay violent hands on their dearest friends, to kill or to cast into fire their parents, husbands, wives, children, etc., or to look on while they have been most cruelly and shamefully abused. Women and young maids have also suffered such barbarities, accompanied with all the imaginable indignities, insults, shame and pungent pangs to which their sex could expose them. Tender babes have been whipped, starved, drowned, stabbed and burnt to death, dashed against trees and stones, torn limb from limb, carried about on the points of spikes and spears and thrown to the dogs and swine.”

Let the impartial and unbiased reader calmly consider this evidence and weigh it well, comparing it carefully with the prophetic picture of Antichrist and he will be overwhelmingly convinced that it fulfills all the terrible demands of prophecy. And remember, Rome has never repented of these things. If she has we would like to know the name of the Pope who had the courage to do it, for it certainly has escaped the attention of the public.

“If such treatment as this, inflicted on successive generations of disciples of Christ, for centuries together be not ‘wearing out of the saints of the Most High,’ what could be? History affords no parallel, for the Pagan persecutions were brief in comparison to the Papal.”

These evidences are more than sufficient to condemn a criminal many times over, but the following single statement makes all other arguments on the subject needless: **“It has been calculated that the Popes of Rome have, directly or indirectly, slain on account of their faith, fifty millions of martyrs.”**

Ponder that well. Fifty millions of souls faithful to Jesus and the Word of God, slain by Antichrist. Fifty millions of blood-washed souls who would rather die than bow to the idolatry of Rome. Fifty millions of our dear brethren “who loved not their lives unto the death.” Fifty millions whose blood has flowed in rivers at the command of the Papacy, and that blood is even now crying to God for vengeance.

With all this and more before us, we are bold enough to take our stand with God’s Word and its visible fulfillment and say to our beloved brethren THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE ANTICHRIST APART FROM THE PAPACY. It is vain to look for another. Thou Antichrist on the Tiber, we recognize thee. THOU ART HE THAT SHOULD COME.

Antichrist a Dynasty

It seems needful at this point to insert an answer to the objection that most Futurists raise concerning the long duration of Antichrist’s sway. Is he one single individual or a line of rulers? As we have already noticed, Futurists assert that he is a single bad man who is to be manifested during the last three

and a half years of this age. On the contrary, Historicists believe the Scriptures teach he will be a dynasty or succession of rulers like Pharaoh or the Kaiser.

Is there any Scripture ground for this?

There certainly is.

It is well to recall the fact that in Scripture the word Christ does not always stand for an individual. In I Cor. 12:12, Paul describes the entire body of believers, who are “all baptized by one spirit into one body” as “Ho Christos” “The Christ.”

In Eph, 2:15, the long line of believers of all the ages, is spoken of as “one new man.”

With this Scripture usage in mind look back to Dan. 7:17. Speaking of the four universal empires which were to occupy the course of history it says, “These great beasts which are four are four **kings** which shall arise out of the earth.” Does this mean four individual kings? No, but the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman Empires, with a dynasty or succession of rulers over each. This is common knowledge.

Again, Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar’s dream to him says, “Thou art the head of gold.” He, however, was not the only king of the Babylonian Empire, but the head of gold stood for the whole of it, and Nebuchadnezzar represents the whole dynasty at that time. So one man stands for a number of men in Scripture usage in this passage also.

Now let us read Dan. 8:20-22, “The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power.”

This we submit is the clue to the use of the word “King” in many of the prophetic Scriptures. Here it is evident that the word stands for kingdom whether a single king or a succession rule, for the rough goat is said to be the king (kingdom) of Greece of which the great horn is the first king Alexander.

Again, the ten horns of Dan. 7:20, 24, etc., are proven by fulfillment to be the ten kingdoms into which the Western Roman Empire was divided at its fall, yet these ten kingdoms are called kings, verse 24, and they have existed 14 centuries with a succession of kings over each. Side by side with these the strange little horn “which had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things” had to arise and run its course. It is therefore a dynasty of rulers as the others are. And only a cramped conception of the great movements of prophecy could make a student maintain the contrary. We therefore conclude that the Protestant interpretation of the Great Reformation was and is the correct one.

Antichrist is a succession of rulers in the professing Church.

The Number of the Beast

666

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six.”—Rev. 13:18.

This mystic cryptogram has tasked the wisdom of the past eighteen centuries. What does it mean? Can it be ignored? Certainly not, any more than John 3:16, or God would not have caused it to be written. The Holy Spirit does an almost unknown thing here: He literally urges those who are wise and have understanding to decipher the number of the beast, and who dare charge Him with folly. The very form of it indicates that we have here hidden wisdom that we dare not ignore.

How, then, shall we understand it?

“No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation,” we are told, and this, being prophecy, comes well under the ruling.

Whatever, then, may be the meaning of this perplexing number, it will be so unfolded that it will be recognized as given by the Holy Spirit one of whose offices is to show us things to come. And when given, it will be evident that it is not a little private matter. Moreover, the result of the deciphering will be in harmony with all the other features revealed as to the beast or Antichrist.

Every century, yea almost every decade, has seen the rise of some individual of frightful personality, whose name has been tested by the number 666.

During the Great War, we found the following printed in “The Philadelphia Inquirer”: Believing the Kaiser to be the Antichrist, the writer endeavored to decipher his name in the following outrageous fashion:

We do not recollect ever having seen anything more arbitrary than this.

Let the reader note that in this fanciful and capricious private interpretation, the letter K has a numerical value of 116; A, a value of 16; I, a value of 96, etc. Thoughtful minds will at once see the absurdity of such a method of deciphering this great secret number, for nowhere can these letters be found to bear such values. And the result of the Great War has settled the matter in this case.

We give this as a case in point of the kind of thing that is multiplied ad nauseam, but which is all the time diverting the public mind from the true solution and shielding the true beast or Antichrist. They are either deliberately placed before the Christian public for a purpose or are the result of a misconception of the true character of the Antichrist.

But there is an interpretation which comes to us with supreme authority, because it is not growth of a year, or a decade or even a century, and it has served a purpose commensurate with the evident importance of such a revelation. The preachers and teachers of the early church began to discover and decipher the meaning of it. Irenaeus (A.D. 155-202), who was contemporary with those who had known the Apostle John, says “Lateinos has the number 666, and it is a very probable solution, this being the name of the last kingdom (of Daniel), for the Latins are they who at present rule.” And from

that early date to the present time, a period of 1700 years, this solution has predominated and has been adopted by great Christian thinkers in all the centuries.

Note what is said about the number of the beast, that it is the number of a man. Now this agrees in a very direct way with what is written about the little horn of Dan. 7:8, which had "eyes like the eyes of a man," etc. This little horn was a later development of the fourth or Roman beast, in which one man was dominant. This man as indicated by the eyes, was an overseer or bishop. A beast and a bishop. A political and religious combination, for, be it remembered, that a beast in prophecy is the symbol of a political system. What, then, is the politico-religious system denoted by the mystic 666?

We give herewith the great Protestant solution to this riddle which has never been tampered with by any of Rome's agents, secret or otherwise. It is evident that the language which should be used to "count the number of the beast" is the Greek, in which the Apocalypse was written; but it has been discovered that the Hebrew and Latin give the same result, and a threefold cord is not easily broken. We now submit the three readings, reminding our readers that none of these languages had numerals, but the letters had numerical values. Therefore, when such letters were used for a name, that name had numerical value or number.

In The Greek

The word "Lateinos" — The Latin Man here deciphered reads:

L	A	T	E	I	N	O	S
λ	α	τ	ε	ι	ν	ο	ς
30	1	300	5	10	50	70	200 — 666

This we have verified carefully with the Greek grammar and find absolutely correct. It reveals the Pope as the beast or Antichrist.

Even a very slight knowledge of the papacy will reveal how Latin everything is in that system. Its decrees and bulls are in Latin, its masses are Latin; its prayers are Latin; its worship is Latin; it blesses in Latin and curses in Latin—all is Latin.

In The Hebrew

The word "Romiti" — A Roman Man here deciphered, reads:

R	O	M	I	T	I
ר	ו	מ	י	ת	י
200	6	40	10	400	10 — 666

This gives the same unerring results as the Greek, locating the Antichrist in Rome. It is also true that the word Romith, The Roman Kingdom, gives 666. We have had this Hebrew verified by an educated Jewish Rabbi born in Palestine, who is a master of Hebrew.

In The Latin

Vicarius Filii Dei—Vicar of the Son of God.

This is the Pope's official title, and is synonymous with the original meaning of the Greek word Antichrist, which meant a Vice-Christ, or one in the place of Christ, which is the Pope's most insistent claim. We now give this Latin name and number. Anyone can count this, for we still use the Roman numerals. Let the reader try it for himself.

V	I	C	A	R	I	V	S
5,	1,	100,	0,	0,	1,	5,	0—112
F	I	L	I	I	D	E	I
0,	1,	50,	1,	1,	500,	0,	1—554
<hr/>							
666							

As we look over these results what do we see revealed? Just this incontrovertible fact, in harmony with all the other teaching of this book, that the decoding of this strange number points, with unerring certitude, to the Pope or Papacy as the Antichrist who was to come.

Why then look for another?

The Doom of Antichrist

This booklet would be incomplete without a statement as to the future of this great system.

Has it a predestined end?

If so, what is it to be and when?

Is there any Biblical light on this?

Yes! Thank God! there is, and that a most decisive and awful one. We quote from 2 Thess. 2:8, "That wicked one the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

Now there is scarcely any doubt as to the application of this. What is the spirit of his mouth? I read in Rev. 19:15 of One out of whose mouth goeth a sharp sword. In Eph. 6:17 this sword is declared to be the Word of God. So the interpretation of the consuming referred to above is clearly a process of disintegration in the system of Antichrist brought about by the operation of God's Word—The Bible. Has such a consuming process ever taken place in this system?

Can there be any doubt as to the answer?

The Great Protestant Reformation is the answer. This was brought about by one thing, viz., the discovery and proclamation of God's Word. The printing and distribution of the Bible. The placing of the Bible into the hands of the common people. The result is very apparent on the map of the world today in the great Protestant nations numbering nearly 200,000,000 of people. These would now have been Catholic but for the consuming power of the Word.

Verily the Lord has been consuming it with the spirit of His mouth. This is the first stage of the pre-destined end of Anti-Christ.

The second stage can hardly be called a stage, it is a cataclysm. "It will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming." It will therefore last till He comes, when all hypocrisies will be immediately manifest, and all false lights will wane in the oncoming dawn.

To be destroyed, that is the fate awaiting the mighty, anti-christian system which has its seat in Rome, that so-called church which still deceives untold millions. Listen to God's judgment of Antichrist and his system.

"And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her." Rev. 18:20, 21.

Reader, are you one of God's true children? Then dare to take the place of these who rejoice in heaven in response to God's call here. Rejoice over the prospect of the fall of this system which has sent untold millions to hell by its deceptions. Rejoice, for as much as you love Christ, you should detest and oppose His enemy, the Antichrist, who has usurped His place through these long weary centuries.

An Appeal To Brethren

Many futurist brethren, beloved in the Lord, are looking eagerly for the development of this personal Antichrist. Some expected him during the Great War. Some pointed to the Kaiser as he. But the futurist's Antichrist is still as far away as when the Jesuit Ribera started the deception 300 years ago. Nor is there the slightest vestige of him on the horizon.

Our brethren adopted this teaching unwittingly and innocently at the beginning; have made themselves believe it because other orthodox teachers believed it; then they taught it, written tracts and books about it, and consequently must needs defend it. It is hard for a man, even a consecrated christian teacher, to climb down and acknowledge he has taught wrongly. But the recent rapid growth of Romanism in Protestant lands is the result and strongest condemnation of futurism. It has no positive witness against Rome.

Oh! Brethren beloved, open your eyes. Put away the Jesuit deceit. Come back to the faith of the Reformers. Your churches and classes need this teaching. It is the food that has been lacking for many a day. It is the missing link in your teaching.

Christian brother, these prophetic words are more needed by you today than at the time of the Great Reformation. Reject them not. Without them you will be completely in the dark with regard to Christ's greatest enemy on earth, Satan's masterpiece; The Man of Sin; The Papacy.

Postscript

There are many questions that cannot be answered in such a small work as the present. But let the reader be assured that his queries have been already answered in works extant and available. We hope that the result of a perusal of this tract will be to create a desire to know more about these things. If so we shall thank God.

We are well aware that, if a person accepts the Protestant presentation of Prophecy as herein set forth, it will change his method of interpretation of the Apocalypse a good deal, but it will not alter his belief in the Personal Pre-Millennial Coming of the Lord Jesus. This is "Our Hope," our sheet anchor.

We conclude this testimony with some pointed words on this subject by that sainted scholar, Dr. A. J. Gordan:

"The papal 'Man of Sin' was accurately photographed on the camera of prophecy thousands of years ago; that no detective searching for him today would need any other description of him than that which is found on the pages of the Bible. Taking these photographs of Daniel and John and Paul, and searching the world upside down for their originals, I am confident that this same detective would stop at the Vatican, and after gazing for a few moments at the Pontiff, who sits there gnawing the bone of infallibility, which he acquired in 1870, and clutching for that other bone of temporal sovereignty which he lost the same year, he would lay his hand on him and say 'You are wanted in the court of the Most High, to answer to the indictment of certain souls beneath the altar, who were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they bore, and who are crying, How long O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'"

Art Thou he that should come or look we for another?

In vain shall we look for another, for Thou oh! Bishop of Rome, Art the Man of Sin, the Antichrist.

This is God's judgment. Reader, will you side with God?